

## Supplemental Guidance for Long-term Care Facility Visitors

According to the [Safe Start for Long-term Care Facilities \(LTCF\)](#), all LTCFs and agencies are required to provide accommodations to allow access for in person visitation for all residents and clients. Each facility must have a written visitation protocol, it must be shared with visitors, and visitors must agree to abide by the protocol.

LTCFs must post instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene). [Appendix C](#) is an example of education that LTCFs may provide to visitors and should be customized to meet the facility's needs.

[Safe Start for Long-term Care Facilities \(LTCF\)](#) requires that facilities maintain a log of anyone entering the building which must be kept for 30 days. [Appendix B](#) is an example of a visitor log that LTCFs may use to track visitors and should be customized to meet the facility's needs.

LTCFs must establish a process to identify anyone entering the facility, regardless of their vaccination status, who has any of the following three criteria:

- a positive viral test for SARS-CoV-2
- [symptoms of COVID-19](#)
- close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection

Visitors should not visit LTCFs for at least 10 days from onset of COVID-19 symptoms and be 24 hours without a fever with no fever reducing medication and improvement of symptoms, or 10 days from positive SARS-CoV-2 viral test if asymptomatic.

Visitors should not visit LTCFs for 10 days following an exposure (day 0) to SARS-CoV-2 or 7 days with a negative test within 48 hours and they do not develop symptoms.

[Appendix A](#) is an example of a screening tool that LTCFs may use to screen visitors (and others entering the building) and should be customized to meet the facility's needs.

## Appendix A

### Screening Tool

1. Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms of COVID-19 (please check for yes)?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fever or chills                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Headache                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cough                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> New loss of taste or smell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Congestion or runny nose   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle or body aches                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea or vomiting         |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea                   |

If you have answered “yes” to any of the above, consider being assessed for COVID-19 and tested as appropriate. Please do not visit until you are well.

2. In the past 10 days, have you had close contact (within six feet for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period) with anyone with COVID-19?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

If you have answered “yes” to the above, please do not visit for at least 10 days since the last close contact with a person with COVID-19, or 7 days with a negative test within 48 hours.

3. Have you had a positive COVID-19 test for active virus in the past 10 days, or are you awaiting results of a COVID-19 test?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

If you answered “yes” to the above, please do not visit until you have received the results of your COVID-19 test and wait at least 10 days since your symptoms first appeared AND 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication AND symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.

4. Within the past 10 days, has a public health or medical professional told you to self-monitor, self-isolate, or self-quarantine because of concerns about COVID-19 infection?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

If you answered “yes” to the above, please do not visit until your 10-day self-monitor, self-isolate, or self-quarantine has ended.

## Appendix B

VISITOR'S LOG								
Date	Time In	First & Last Name	Email	Phone	Room number and/or Resident's Initials	Time Out	Symptom Screening Neg	Received Education on Visitation

## Appendix C

### Letter to Visitors

Dear Residents, Clients, Families, and Friends:

We are committed to keeping our residents and clients safe and we need your help. The virus causing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (abbreviated COVID-19) can cause outbreaks in long-term care facilities and residential homes. Many of our residents and clients are in the high-risk group for COVID-19 and may have medical conditions putting them at a very high risk of becoming sick, or even severely ill, with COVID-19. While the risk of COVID-19 is significantly decreased for both residents and visitors if up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, the risk is not eliminated. For the safety of your loved one and our community, visitors must adhere to core infection prevention while inside the facility. Visiting outdoors is safer and preferred to indoor visitation.

#### Core Infection Prevention

- Visitors must be screened for:
  - Symptoms of COVID-19
  - Positive SARS-CoV-2 viral test within the past 10 days
  - Close contact with someone with COVID-19 within the past 10 days.
- Visitors and residents must use alcohol-based hand rub or wash hands with soap and water before and after each visit.
- Residents/clients and visitor(s) must wear a well-fitting face mask or respirator as source control according to [Secretary of Health Order](#) and [CDC Guidance](#). See [Cloth Face Covering and Mask FAQ](#).
- Visitors should go directly to the visiting area and directly out of the facility when the visit has ended.

During times of increased visitation, such as holidays, and when there is a large outbreak, facilities may have procedures in place to manage visitation and visitor flow so these core infection prevention principles are maintained. This may include limiting the number of visitors per resident at one time or limiting the total number of visitors in the facility at one time.

Thank you for helping us keep our community and residents safe.

## More COVID-19 Information and Resources

Stay up-to-date on the [current COVID-19 situation in Washington](#), [Governor Inslee's proclamations](#), [symptoms](#), [how it spreads](#), and [how and when people should get tested](#). See our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.

A person's race/ethnicity or nationality does not, itself, put them at greater risk of COVID-19. However, data are revealing that communities of color are being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. This is due to the effects of racism, and in particular, structural racism, that leaves some groups with fewer opportunities to protect themselves and their communities. [Stigma will not help to fight the illness](#). Share only accurate information to keep rumors and misinformation from spreading.

- [WA State Department of Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [WA State Coronavirus Response \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Find Your Local Health Department or District](#)
- [CDC Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Stigma Reduction Resources](#)

**Have more questions?** Call our COVID-19 Information hotline: **1-800-525-0127**

Monday – 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Tuesday – Sunday and [observed state holidays](#), 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. For interpretative services, **press #** when they answer and **say your language**. For questions about your own health, COVID-19 testing, or testing results, please contact a health care provider.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 ([Washington Relay](#)) or email [civil.rights@doh.wa.gov](mailto:civil.rights@doh.wa.gov).